

**Women's Experience with Battering (WEB) Scale<sup>1</sup>**  
**Relationship Assessment Tool (RAT)**

The following are a number of statements that women have used to describe their relationships with their “male partners”. Please read each statement and then circle the answer that best describes how much you agree or disagree in general with each one as a description of your relationship with your partner. If you do not now have a partner, think about your last one. There are no right or wrong answers; just circle the number which seems to best describe how much you agree or disagree with it.

|   | Agree Strongly | Agree Somewhat | Agree a little | Disagree a little | Disagree Somewhat | Disagree strongly |
|---|----------------|----------------|----------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| 1. He makes me feel unsafe even in my own home.                                   | 6              | 5              | 4              | 3                 | 2                 | 1                 |
| 2. I feel ashamed of the things he does to me.                                    | 6              | 5              | 4              | 3                 | 2                 | 1                 |
| 3. I try not to rock the boat because I am afraid of what he might do.            | 6              | 5              | 4              | 3                 | 2                 | 1                 |
| 4. I feel like I am programmed to react in a certain way to him.                  | 6              | 5              | 4              | 3                 | 2                 | 1                 |
| 5. I feel like he keeps me prisoner.  | 6              | 5              | 4              | 3                 | 2                 | 1                 |
| 6. He makes me feel like I have no control over my life, no power, no protection. | 6              | 5              | 4              | 3                 | 2                 | 1                 |
| 7. I hide the truth from others because I'm afraid not to.                        | 6              | 5              | 4              | 3                 | 2                 | 1                 |
| 8. I feel owned and controlled by him.  | 6              | 5              | 4              | 3                 | 2                 | 1                 |
| 9. He can scare me without laying a hand on me                                    | 6              | 5              | 4              | 3                 | 2                 | 1                 |
| 10. He has a look that goes straight through me and terrifies me.                 | 6              | 5              | 4              | 3                 | 2                 | 1                 |

<sup>1</sup> Reprinted from *Violence against Women* 8 (10) Smith PH, Thornton GE, DeVellis R, Earp A, Coker AI. A population based study of prevalence and distinctiveness of battering, physical assault and sexual assault in intimate partner relationships, 1208-32, Copyright 2002, with permission from Sage Publications.

## Women's Experience with Battering (WEB) Scale / Relationship Assessment Tool<sup>2</sup>

### **Background**

The Women's Experiences with Battering Scale (WEB) is a screening tool for intimate partner violence (IPV). Recently it has also been referred to as the Relationship Assessment Tool. The WEB is unique in that it measures the experiences of women in abusive relationships rather than the behaviors of their abusive partners. Instead of focusing on physical abuse, the WEB assesses for emotional abuse by measuring a woman's perceptions of her vulnerability to physical danger and her sense of loss of power and control in her relationship. Research has shown that the WEB is a more sensitive and comprehensive screening tool for identifying IPV compared to other validated tools that focus primarily on physical assault. Evaluation studies of the WEB have demonstrated its effectiveness in identifying IPV among African-American and Caucasian women. The WEB has not been validated with same sex partners; it can be adapted for use with same sex couples by changing "he" to "my partner" in the screening tool.

The WEB can be self-administered or used during face-to-face assessment by a provider. A series of 10 statements ask a woman how safe she feels, physically and emotionally, in her relationship. The respondent is asked to rate how much she agrees or disagrees with each of the statements on a scale of 1 to 6 ranging from disagree strongly (1) to agree strongly (6). The numbers associated with her responses to the 10 statements are summed to create a score for the WEB. A score of 20 points or higher on the WEB is considered positive for IPV.

### **Publications about the WEB:**

Coker AL, Pope BO, Smith PH, Sanderson M, Hussey JR. Assessment of clinical partner violence screening tools. *Journal of the American Medical Women's Association*. 2001(winter):19-23.

Smith PH, Thorton GE, DeVellis R, Earp JL, Coker AL. A population-based study of the prevalence and distinctiveness of battering, physical assault, and sexual assault in intimate relationships. *Violence Against Women*. 2002;8(10):1208-1232.

Smith PH, Earp JL, DeVellis R. Measuring battering: Development of the Women's Experience with Battering (WEB) scale. *Women's Health: Research on Gender, Behavior, and Policy*. 1995; 1(4):273-288.

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<sup>2</sup> *Healthy Babies, Healthy Moms: A Train the Trainers Curriculum on Domestic Violence, Reproductive Coercion and Children Exposed*, L. Chamberlain and R. Levenson. Produced by Futures Without Violence, funded by Administration for Children and Families, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and Office on Women's Health, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services